

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously canceled).

B1
Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Previously canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously canceled).

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously canceled).

Claim 11 (original): A process of aggregating demands comprising the steps of:

validating incoming data so as to ensure said data is valid; processing said incoming data so as to extract an aggregation rule and at least one demand;

processing said aggregation rule so as to apply said aggregation rule against said at least one demand to create at least one group based upon said aggregation rule;

outputting output data indicative of said at least one group.

Claim 12 (original): A process of aggregating demands as in claim 11, wherein said incoming data is XML based.

Claim 13 (original): A process of aggregating demands as in claim 12, wherein said output data is XML based.

Claims 14-16 (withdrawn)

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A process of creating coalitions of demands comprising the steps of:

creating a process ID to identify a process through which said coalitions are to be created;

creating groups of demands based upon an application of an aggregation rule;

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing;

if said attributes are missing, automatically acquiring said attributes from another source;

assigning a unique group ID for each group created and assigning said process ID to said demands;

assigning said demands to said coalitions based upon said group IDs;

once a predetermined time period has passed, closing said coalitions.

b | Claim 18 (original): A process of creating coalitions of demands as in claim 17, further comprising the step of permitting manual addition of additional demands to said coalitions.

Claim 19 (original): A process of creating coalitions of demands as in claim 17, further comprising the step of permitting coalitions to be manually closed prior to said predetermined time period passing.

Claim 20 (Previously canceled)

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A process of grouping demands input into a system by a user into coalitions of demands

comprising the steps of:

inputting demands into a demand aggregation application;
analyzing said demands by applying an aggregation rule;
if said analysis of said demands indicates that said demands
meet criteria of ~~one or more of said~~ a plurality of coalitions,
proposing said plurality of ~~one or more of said~~ coalitions to
said user;

permitting said user to assign said demands to a coalition
of said plurality of ~~one or more of said~~ coalitions;

B1 if said analysis of said demands indicates that said
demands do not meet criteria of ~~one or more~~ any of said
coalitions, automatically creating a new coalition to
accommodate said demands.

Claim 23 (original): A process of grouping demands as in claim
22, further comprising the steps of:

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing;
and

if said attributes are missing, acquiring said attributes
from another source.

Claim 24 (Previously amended): A process of aggregating demands
according to an aggregation rule comprising the steps of:

collecting demands from a plurality of sources;

determining if any attributes of said demands are missing;
if said attributes are missing, acquiring said attributes
from another source;

creating groups of demands based upon an application of
said aggregation rule; and

b1
forwarding said demands to a demand aggregation
application.

Claim 25 (Previously canceled).